

REMARKS

Applicants have received and carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed on May 20, 2008. Currently, claims 1-15 and 17-22 remain pending. Claims 1-10 have been allowed, and claims 11-15 and 17-22 have been rejected. Favorable consideration of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Allowable Claims

Claims 1-10 were indicated in the Office Action as allowed. Furthermore, claims 15 and 17-22 were indicated as allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Amendments to claim 15 are believed to overcome the outstanding rejections of claims 15 and 17-22. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the favorable consideration of these claims.

Claim Objections

Claim 15 was objected to for informalities indicated in the Office Action. Claim 15 has been amended with this paper in an attempt to overcome the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

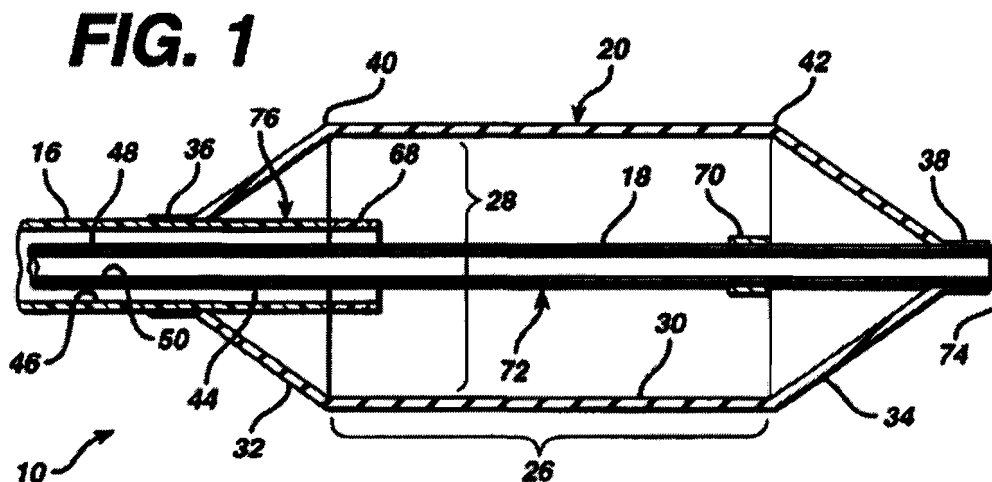
Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 11-15 and 17-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Namely, the Examiner requested clarity as to the slidability of the tubular member within the sleeve or third member. In response to the rejection, claims 11 and 15 have been amended in view of the suggested language provided in the Office Action. As such, it is believed the amendments to claims 11 and 15 sufficiently overcome the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 11-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Leavitt, U.S. Patent No. 5,779,731. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 11 has been amended to recite that the reinforcing sleeve has an outer surface attached to the inner surface of the outer tube. Leavitt does not teach such an arrangement. It appears as though the rejection is based on the embodiment disclosed at FIG. 1 of Leavitt, reproduced below.



In formulating the rejection, reference number 76 was equated to the claimed reinforcing sleeve. Upon carefully reviewing the teachings of Leavitt, reference number 76 is directed to the outer shaft subassembly formed of the proximal marker 68 affixed to the outer shaft 16. See Leavitt, at column 6, lines 22-24. It would be a non sequitur to state that the subassembly 76, which includes the outer shaft 16, has an outer surface attached to an inner surface of the outer shaft 16. In the event the Examiner intended to equate the proximal marker 68 to the claimed reinforcing sleeve, Applicants would like to note that the proximal marker 68 is not taught as having an outer surface attached to an inner surface of the outer shaft 16.

In reviewing FIG. 1, as well as the remainder of the disclosure of Leavitt, Leavitt fails to disclose a reinforcing sleeve attached to an outer tube as currently claimed, in which a guidewire tube is slidably disposed within the reinforcing sleeve. For at least these reasons, Leavitt does not anticipate claim 11, or claims 12-14 which depend from claim 11. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

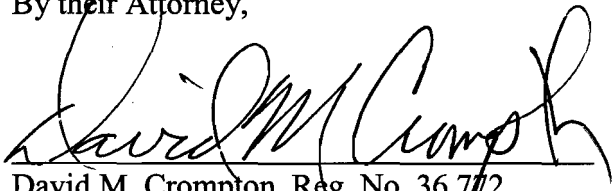
Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Perreault et al.

By their Attorney,

Date: 8/20/08


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